

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

THE INSIDER



FALL 2026



LOOKING AHEAD

A new chapter of vision, growth and connection at CRC.
Campus updates, academic partnerships, and athletic records.
Over \$215,000 raised for CRC Day - THANK YOU!

THE CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE INSIDER

FALL 2026

The Insider is published twice a year through the college's Communications and Marketing Office and the Office of Advancement as a service to the supporters and friends of Crowley's Ridge College.

Submissions: Please send any story ideas and/or photographs to nharrell@crc.edu.

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www.crc.edu/theinsider

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2-3
Family Weekend

October 30th
Basketball Home Opener vs. Fisk

December 14-January 8
Winter Break

January 11
Spring Semester Begins

February 20
Homecoming

April 11
Lectureship Kickoff (Youth Night)

April 11-14
CRC Bible Lectureship

April 22
Project ReachOut

May 8
Commencement

June 13
CRC Day

Scan the QR code below to view the complete Pioneer Athletics calendar.



Dates are subject to change. Please visit the www.crcpioneers.com or www.crc.edu for updated information.

MISSION TRUE

Growing • Serving • Investing • Building

MISSION TRUE

in the Life of Our College

Dr. Richard Johnson
President



"A college's mission is most visible in the lives of its students."

Growing While Remaining Mission True

CRC's fall enrollment reached 313 students, exceeding the previous 311 record set this past spring. A record 192 students are enrolled full-time, 37 more than last fall, an increase of 23.9%. That also exceeds the previous full-time enrollment high set in fall 2017. Our full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment reached a record 230.93, up 21.4% from last fall. We are grateful for each student represented in these numbers. This enrollment progress reflects the excellent work of our admissions team, coaches, faculty and staff. We have a great team at CRC and I am very proud of all of them!

As CRC grows, we must provide strong academic programs, personal attention, meaningful friendships, and opportunities for students to grow in their faith. Our Mission True 2026–2030 Strategic Plan gives all of us at CRC a clear guide for decisions about growth, stewardship, and service. We must make decisions in these and in every area that keep our focus on what is pleasing to God and does not sway from our founding purpose. Scripture and CRC's Christian mission must continue to shape the way we teach, lead, and care for students. We are working on the objectives to support the Five Pillars of our Mission True 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and look forward to sharing more about them soon.

CRC's Mission True commitment is more than just a strategic plan. Dr. Dakota Crossno's CRC Story shows what it can mean in a person's life. Dakota arrived at CRC uncertain about college and without a background in a Christian home. Faculty and staff, including Paul McFadden, Art Smith, Jeremy Pierce, and Rick Hale, took time to mentor him. He came to know Christ and was baptized on October 6, 2014. Dakota later set a goal of returning to CRC to teach and offer students the same kind of encouragement he had received.

After graduating from CRC, he earned a master's degree at Freed-Hardeman University and began teaching part time at CRC. He joined our Bible faculty full time in 2023, became Dean of Students in 2025, and completed his Doctor of Biblical Exposition in 2026. I am thankful that Dakota now walks alongside students in the same place where others once walked alongside him. His journey reminds us that spiritual growth happens through relationships, patient teaching, and the daily example of people who love Christ.



PILLAR 1: Mission and Scripture Guides Every Decision

PILLAR 2: Enrollment Growth and Student Success

PILLAR 3: Academic Innovation and Workforce Preparation

PILLAR 4: Financial Strength and Institutional Stewardship

PILLAR 5: Kingdom Impact and Campus Growth

(continued on pg. 2)

A Story That Began Decades Earlier

I have heard Frank Guinn, our 2025 Distinguished Alumnus, passionately speak about CRC’s lasting influence on his life many times. Frank attended CRC in 1967-68 and said he knew right away that the people who worked there loved him. He kept in touch with several faculty members after attending CRC and treasures the letters some mailed him to encourage him as a young man. Frank recalls a loving and supportive campus that helped shape his professional, personal, and spiritual life. He views his experience at CRC as a powerful example of what it means to care for a student beyond the classroom. Later in life, Frank completed his CRC degree with only lacking a few hours.

Frank and his wife, Ann Marie, have remained generous friends of CRC for many years. Frank’s success as a co-founder of Ima’s Fashions, his years of service to civic organizations, and his service as chairman of the Arkansas State Police Foundation are well known in this area and throughout Arkansas. What encourages me most is that Frank still sees the value of investing in CRC students. His story and Dakota’s span generations, yet both speak to the same calling: help young people find direction, build enduring relationships in a safe and loving Christian educational environment, and prepare for lives of service. That’s what CRC is all about! That is our purpose, which is exactly what our founders dreamed about, and what CRC is still committed to today.



The Frank Guinn Foundation and a New Colleague

Frank’s encouragement has led to the creation of the Crowley’s Ridge College Foundation, approved by our Board of Trustees last September. However, after further considering Frank’s legacy and his willingness to help CRC through this additional fundraising arm, his generous support of CRC, and his excellent reputation and influence, the Board of Trustees and I decided to change the name to The Frank Guinn Foundation.

This new foundation will help build relationships with our alumni, businesses, and friends who want to support scholarships, academic programs, campus needs, new facilities and improve existing facilities, faculty and staff, and the CRC’s long-term strength. Frank’s belief in CRC and his willingness to introduce others to its mission have helped us take this important step. His example is helping us invite others to take part in CRC’s future. We are in the process of developing literature to help spread the opportunity to financially support The Frank Guinn Foundation and how it will help CRC enjoy further success throughout our

campus. In fact, every dollar raised through this new Foundation will be used to support CRC.

We welcome Archie Shelton as Director of Advancement and Major Gifts. Archie began on September 12 and will work closely with Tim Wooldridge and me to strengthen relationships with those who care about CRC. He brings more than 15 years of advancement experience in higher education and nonprofit organizations, including service at Harding University, the University of Memphis, Freed-Hardeman University, and the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation. Archie has been quite successful in building friendships and securing charitable support during his career. He will be a tremendous help to CRC in this specialized area, and I hope you will get to know Archie as he visits with our alumni, churches, and friends.



Churches and Members Investing in Bible Education

This year’s CRC Day has brought gifts totaling more than \$215,000, with 82 churches represented through congregational and individual gifts. This is a new record for CRC Day! Your response greatly exceeded our \$150,000 goal, and I am deeply grateful. Every dollar given for CRC Day supports our Bible department. It helps provide Bible education, Bible scholarships and experiences that prepare students for service in congregations and communities.

Many of you have been part of CRC Day for years. Others, perhaps gave for the first time this summer. Whether a church collected a special contribution or an individual sent a personal gift, you helped strengthen a part of CRC that is fully connected to our identity. Thank you for supporting our students and our Bible program.

Planning a Lasting Gift

Friends have also asked about ways to support CRC while receiving payments during their lifetimes. A charitable gift annuity is one option: a donor makes a gift to the College and receives fixed payments according to the terms of the agreement. An example of payout rates is illustrated to the right.

Recent conversations with three friends of the College led to how this arrangement now provides them with dependable income and helps CRC. If you would like to explore whether a charitable gift annuity fits your circumstances, I would welcome a conversation with you at your

Example of Current CGA Rates at CRC:

Age	Rate
75	7.0
76	7.2
77	7.4
78	7.6
79	7.8
80	8.1
81	8.3
82	8.5
83	8.7
84	8.9
85	9.1
86	9.3
87	9.5
88	9.7
89	9.9
90+	10.1

convenience. Additionally, I can mail or email you a free personalized illustration based on your exact age(s).

Preparing for CRC’s Future Growth

Our students benefit from visible improvements, but they also depend on infrastructure most visitors never see. CRC’s new wastewater system was a necessary investment of nearly \$1 million. We used operating funds and also borrowed to complete it, and we currently owe \$555,919 for the new wastewater system. Paying off that balance will free resources and allow CRC to begin construction on a new Academic Center. Here’s an idea regarding how we can quickly pay off that loan balance.

The Insider reaches about 4,800 households. If each household gave \$116, those combined gifts would cover the current loan balance. I understand that many readers cannot make that size of gift and others may be able to do more. Would you consider what you can give toward retiring this debt? Each gift reduces an obligation that has weighed on the College since we completed the system. We are thankful for those who have already helped with this essential work.

Once we have paid off this loan, CRC will begin construction on a new Academic Center. Our new Academic Center will give students and faculty room to grow degree programs and prepare graduates for service in fields where communities need them. Our record enrollment this fall proved quite challenging in finding adequate classroom space. This new facility is greatly needed to meet our student growth, which we anticipate will continue with some of the new programs we are working toward, which will lead to more solid career opportunities.

Improving Outdoor Tennis, Pickleball, and Basketball Courts

We are also seeking support for improvements students can use every day. Our outdoor courts need resurfacing. A grandfather of one of our students has the expertise to help us create a refreshed tennis court, an official-size pickleball court, and a basketball court, with different colored lines for each sport. The tennis court will also be lined for pickleball. These are places for students to go outside, play together, and form friendships that last long after graduation.



Our fall mail appeal also describes plans for a sand volleyball court and the need for a second 15-passenger van for athletic teams and other student trips. Gifts for these three projects total approximately \$81,000 and will help us improve recreation and make group travel possible as our programs grow. We have many important needs, and every contribution allows us to keep making improvements as we serve our students.

Thank You for Being Part of CRC

When I think about what makes CRC special, I think of the faculty members who wrote to Frank Guinn who encouraged him as a young man, the mentors who encouraged Dakota Crossno, the churches that support our Bible program, and the friends who give so our campus can serve the next generation. Buildings, programs, and financial strength matter because of the people who will learn and grow here. I was one of those students many years ago. I know many of you benefited by attending CRC as well. Crowley’s Ridge College pointed us in a solid direction. A direction that meant honoring and serving God and serving one another.

Please continue to pray for our students and those who teach and serve them. If you would like to help with the wastewater loan balance, the Academic Center, or student life projects, please complete the form below and mail your gift to Crowley’s Ridge College, or you may give online at crc.edu/donations.

I would also be glad to visit to discuss any of these or other areas with you at (870) 236-6901 or president@crc.edu. Thank you for helping CRC remain Mission True in all that we do.

In Christ,

Richard

MY GIFT TO CROWLEY’S RIDGE COLLEGE

Name: _____ ☐ Wastewater loan balance
Address: _____ ☐ Academic Center
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ ☐ Student life projects
Phone: _____ Email: _____

TOTAL GIFT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make check payable to Crowley’s Ridge College and mail this form to
100 College Drive, Paragould, AR 72450.

A FRESH LOOK FOR CAMPUS DINING

Students and guests are seeing another visible change on campus this fall. We have modernized the Jennie Sue Eubanks Cafeteria with improvements to the ceiling, lighting, flooring, serving area, and installed a new roof and a front entrance canopy. Fresh Ideas is now managing all food service, including the concessions in Pete's Treats. These improvements give our students, CRC team, and guests a more inviting place to eat, visit, and build friendships. We find that campus life often grows around a table as much as it does in a classroom.

We also want the area community to enjoy the cafeteria, too. Our Sunday lunches serving from 11AM – 2PM, will continue to be special opportunities to gather, and community members or guests are welcome to join us for other meals as well. Fresh Ideas also offers catering. We hope you will visit, have a meal, and see the changes for yourself. We are grateful to everyone who helped make our cafeteria renovation possible.



Save the Date!

BECOME

— CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE BIBLE LECTURES —

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us,
the we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

APRIL 11-14, 2027

Hosted by the Crowley's Ridge College Division of Biblical Studies

NEW ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

In July 2025, CRC and BRTC established an articulation agreement creating a seamless pathway for students completing BRTC's Associate of Science in Business to transfer into CRC's bachelor's programs in Business Administration or Marketing. The agreement gives students the opportunity to begin their education at BRTC and complete a four-year degree at CRC while remaining close to home, work, family, and their communities.

That partnership grew even stronger in March 2026 when the two institutions signed a teacher education agreement designed to create a pathway for BRTC students to pursue teacher licensure and complete a four-year education degree at CRC. Together, the colleges are working to address the teacher shortage in Northeast Arkansas by helping prepare future educators without requiring them to leave the region.

These partnerships represent more than transfer agreements. They reflect CRC's commitment to making Christ-centered higher education accessible and relevant to the needs of our region. By working alongside institutions like BRTC, we can help more students reach their educational goals, prepare

graduates for careers that directly impact our communities, and keep talented young people serving Northeast Arkansas.

This is an exciting part of CRC's continued academic growth. We are grateful for partners who share our commitment to investing in students and strengthening the communities we call home.





PIONEER ATHLETICS



Golf

Chris Riddle capped an impressive freshman season by capturing the individual conference championship and earning a berth in the NAIA Tournament at TPC Deere Run.



Volleyball

Lady Pioneer Volleyball is off to a record-breaking start, as seniors Brooklyn Cross (kills) and Jillian Glasgow (sets played) recently moved into the program's all-time record books.



Cross Country

Pioneer XC has competed in two meets this fall, looking to build off of their fourth place AMC finish in 2025. Several new runners add fresh legs to the program.



Basketball

The Lady Pioneers have named Nick Chaykowsky as Head Coach, who brings back-to-back 20-win seasons at the NAIA level to the Ridge. The men's program embarks on its 20th season under Coach Chris Perkins.



Softball

Three Lady Pioneers earned all-conference honors for 2026: Lilly Wessel (1B) and Jada Diaz (OF/C) were named second team all-conference and Lauren Jones (P) was honored as a champion of character.



Baseball

The Pioneers shattered numerous program records in 2026, fueled by a high powered offense that ranked among the best in the NAIA.

SENT

FORMED IN FAITH. SENT TO SERVE.



We are chasing a different brand of ministry. We are not aimed just at fun, but at following. Not entertainment, but engagement. We are challenging every student to see themselves as sent. Sent into this college, into their homes, into their churches, into the world, to disciple lost people into a relationship with Christ. The mission of the Ridge Connection is simple: to adopt college students into a Christ-centered community that trains them to be disciple-makers. The goal is for real adoption: a genuine invitation to the students at CRC to belong to a family. This family is different than any other one they might be a part of, though. It is oriented at one goal: to train disciple-makers. We are working

tirelessly to relationally disciple those around us, building a culture surrounding this.

This disciple-making mission is not merely encouraging students to be 'fans' of Jesus and His teaching, and it is not just a call for regular church attendance. Rather it is an invitation to be changed by Jesus, and to be a part of His work in the world. This focus on discipleship leads us to know and respond to the command of Jesus: to GO (Matthew 28:19).

We are sent out on a mission, a mission that we are committed to together. Together, we believe God will change the world through us, not just as students, or athletes, but as followers of Jesus sent on a mission to be a part of world-change.

“We are not just students or athletes. We are followers of Jesus sent on a mission to be part of a world-change.”

Josh Lazzarino
Campus Minister



THE RIDGE
CONNECTION



CONNECT
WITH PEOPLE



CONNECT
TO GOD



CONNECT
ON CAMPUS

Honor Roll of Donors

Crowley’s Ridge College is blessed with a generous family of supporters.The next few pages are **CRC’s “Honor Roll Listing of Donors”** followed by those giving **“Memorial & Honor Gifts”** for special friends and loved ones.This listing represents gifts from February 14 - September 30, 2026. CRC would not be possible without generous support of our donors. **Thank you friends for making this wonderful Christian ministry possible and helping us to bless our students each day.**

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Ms. Jennifer Simmons
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Simmons
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Simpkins
Mr. Bob Singleton
Mr. Greg Slayton
Ms. Allison Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Art Smith
Mrs. Carolyn Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smith
Ms. Kristen Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Smith
South Point Tiger Express
Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Spurlock
State Farm Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Stayton
Mrs. Lisa Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. Kendell Stevenson
Roy & Christine Sturgis
Charitable & Educational Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Summitt
Mr. and Mrs. David Summitt
Mr. Van Swaim
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Tadlock
Ms. Darlene Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Taylor
Teacher Prep Inspection - US
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tedder
The Ford Living Trust
Mr. and Mrs. John Thien
Mr. Charles Tinsley
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tolleson

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Tripp
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Tweedy
Unico Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Miller Vaught
Mrs. Linda Vinson
Mr. Donald Walker
Ms. Connie Walton
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walton
Mr. John Warnick
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Weber
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Welborn
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Wells
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC
WHB Farms Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Terry Wilkins
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Willard
Mr. and Mrs. Al Williams
Dr. and Mrs. Harris Williams
Mr. and Mrs. James Williams
Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson
Mrs. Carolyn Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Wooldridge
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Wooldridge
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wooldridge

Memorials

February 14-September 30, 2026

Allison, Nick
Kenneth and Diane Burton
Allmon, Everett and Alene
Wayne and Linda Allmon
Austin, Carolyn
Chuck and Donna Conley
Richard and Andrea Johnson
Melyssa Wyatt Kinnear
Caldwell, Finis
Chuck and Donna Conley
Carter, Phillip Ray
Linda Sue Carter
Cason, Julia
Carolyn Cason
Cullum, Lin
Linda Cullum
Cullum, Sherman
Linda Cullum
Davis, Leroy
Sue Davis
Eddlemon, James Boyd
Rosemary Eddlemon
Feltz, Darlene
Lonnie and Shaila Spurlock
Feltz, Jimmy
Lonnie and Shaila Spurlock
Foster, Venoma
Ina Brown
Futrell, Francis
Ida Mae Couch
Gipson, Ella Jane
Gary and Anna Gipson

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Memorials (cont'd)

Feb. 14 - Sept. 30, 2026

Goins, David

Judy Goins

Guntharp, George Randall

Berna Guntharp

Harrison, Bobbie

James and LuAnn Johnston

Hobby, George

Chuck and Donna Conley

Holcomb, Larry

Tara Cox Holt

Holt, Carol Beth

James and LuAnn Johnston

Inman, Zona

Judy Goins

Richard and Andrea Johnson

Jones, Alan

Brenda Privett

Kenyon, Homer

Betty Phillips

Land, William Edwin

Melba Land

Lowry, Terry

Harold "Blue" and Kathy Riggan

Millikin, Paula Burrow

Cecil Dwayne Millikin

Monks, Michelle

Orville McFarland

Marilyn Rush

Stewart and Phyllis Kennon

Monroe, Gloria

Kenneth and Kay Monroe

Parker, Charles

Phyllis Parker

Peel, Paula Eugenia "Jeanne"

Craig and Michelle Cupp

Hannah Cupp

Phillips, Berlie and Vera

Kathy Shelton

Phillips, Jerry

Betty Phillips

Phillips, Tonya

Judy Goins

Pruett, Gary

Bernie and Janice Crum

Seay, Paula

Roy Seay

Selvidge, Betty

Jimmy Selvidge

Shaneyfelt, Bill

Pam Shaneyfelt

Swindle, Lora Lou

Judy Goins

Tracer, Marian

Rebecca Redman

Honors

Feb. 14 - Sept. 30, 2026

Beasley, Shannon

Mike and Eva Mahanna

Beasley, Shelly

Mike and Eva Mahanna

Carlile, Brett

Mike and Eva Mahanna

Conley, Chuck and Donna

Ron and Marla Roberts

Conley, Joel

Chuck and Donna Conley

Conley, Jon

Chuck and Donna Conley

Crossno, Dr. Dakota

Zach and KristyAnn Grimes

Guinn, Frank "For his love of CRC and vision to begin the CRC Foundation"

Jim Carr

Johnson, Andrea

Mike and Eva Mahanna

Ronnie and Gia Taylor

Lazzarino, Josh

Mike and Eva Mahanna

Smith, Art "Art Smith Endowed Bible Scholarship"

Roy Seay

Summitt, Marta

Mike and Eva Mahanna

Wilkerson, Amy

Mike and Eva Mahanna

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or **HONOR** gift to
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would like to honor
or memorialize along
with acknowledgment's
name(s) and address(es).

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